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Announcement

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VEF Fellowship Program 2007

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce its 2007 VEF Fellowship program. The fellowship application and selection process is open, competitive and transparent. Applicants do not need to pay any fees to anyone in order to apply or be considered for a VEF fellowship. Winners are chosen based on individual merits including academic performance, intellectual capabilities, English capability, and the potential for scientific contribution to education and research.

For 2007, VEF expects to award up to 40 fellowships.

Applications will be available ONLY online ([online applications](#)) and ONLY from **4:00 p.m., September 15, 2005 to 4:00 p.m. October 15, 2005 (Vietnam time zone).**

1. Fields of study

VEF seeks highly qualified applicants interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or Master's degree at leading universities in the United States in the major disciplines of science and technology (S&T), such as Mathematics and Information Technology, Physical Science, Biological Science, and Engineering.

2. Eligibility

In order to apply, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Vietnamese by citizenship and not permanent residents in, or citizens of, any country other than Vietnam;
- College graduates with a Bachelor's or college seniors who will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in S&T by July 2007;
- Overall Grade Point Average (GPA) from college of at least 7.0/10.0. (Grades on other scales must be converted into a 10-point scale according to VEF guidelines. A grade conversion scale is available on the VEF website: www.vef.gov); and
- TOEFL score (either International or Institutional exam) of at least 500. (A valid TOEFL score report is a must. No exception even if the applicant has a degree from an English speaking country.)

3. The selection processes of VEF Fellows

PROCESS A: For applicants who meet all the requirements in Section 2 above

There are four rounds of competition:

ROUND ONE: From 4:00 p.m. on September 15th, 2005 to 4:00 p.m. on October 15th, 2005 (Vietnam time zone), applicants submit online applications. Early applications will be given priority in the review process. In this round, English capabilities and undergraduate GPA are given the highest consideration, at 45% each for screening purposes.

ROUND TWO: After an initial review at the end of October 2005, the most competitive applicants will be invited to take a special math test in November 2005 (locations to be announced). Applications of the highest-scoring applicants within each study field will be reviewed by the professional staff of the National Academies in Washington, D.C.

ROUND THREE: Applicants who are recommended by the National Academies will be invited to take a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) on March 11, 2006 in Vietnam. Based on the highest performers, semi-finalists will be named and invited to an oral examination conducted in Vietnam by American professors and scientists.

ROUND FOUR: In June, 2006, American scientists will conduct an oral examination in English, up to 45 minutes long, for each semi-finalist in Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City. Nominees will be recommended to VEF for a fellowship. A final fellowship award will be made after a nominee receives official graduate admission to a VEF Alliance school or a leading graduate program that accepts VEF's financial support terms.

PROCESS B: For applicants who meet all the requirements in Section 2 above and have independently gained official graduate admission to a VEF Alliance school or a leading graduate program that accepts VEF's financial support terms.

We will accept applications for PROCESS B via our website in March 2007.

There are two rounds of competition:

ROUND ONE: In March 2007, VEF will accept and review applications from applicants who have been admitted to at least one leading S&T graduate program in the U.S. for the Fall 2007 term. The school must either be a member of the VEF Alliance or must accept the financial parameters of the VEF Fellowship.

ROUND TWO: In April 2007, the most competitive applicants will be invited to an interview. Nominees will be recommended to the VEF Board for approval.

For both Process A and Process B, the final decision on VEF Fellowship awards will be made by the VEF Board of Directors in April 2007.

Note: The above is the intended VEF time-line of activities for the selection process for 2007. VEF reserves the right to make changes as circumstances require. Any changes will be posted ONLY on VEF's official website at www.vef.gov.

4. **Preparation for the VEF Fellowship Online Application**

*To prepare for the online applications, applicants **must** do the following:*

1. **TRANSCRIPTS.** Applicants are required to prepare English translation transcripts from undergraduate studies with notarization or with a school official stamp. The Overall Grade Point Average (GPA) must be at least 7.0/10.0.
2. **TOEFL SCORE.** If an applicant's most recent TOEFL score is less than 500 or a TOEFL test score is invalid (more than 24 months for International TOEFL and 12 months for Institutional TOEFL), applicants should contact the Institute of International Education in Hanoi (Phone 04 935 0412, Website www.iie.org) to register and pay fees for an Institutional or International TOEFL exam. Immediate registration and testing are recommended to ensure that scores will be ready **prior to** VEF's application deadline.

VERY IMPORTANT: *If the applicant fails to submit undergraduate transcripts and TOEFL scores as required above before the application deadline, the application will be automatically rejected.*

3. **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.** Each applicant must prepare a Statement of Purpose essay, giving three reasons for wanting to pursue a graduate degree program in the U.S on a VEF Fellowship. Objectives must be stated clearly with explanations about how a VEF Fellowship would help the applicant achieve his or her stated objectives. The essay must be well-organized and composed in excellent English and must not be more than two A4 pages. The quality and content of this essay are extremely important factors in determining the applicant's candidacy for a VEF Fellowship. Below are some suggestions:

Work and research experience

- Narrative of work and research experience
- Description of a scientific challenge that the applicant faced and how s/he managed and solved that challenge, including the lessons learned. This can be a success or a failure, but it must be memorable.

Future plans

- Desired fields of study (several specific subjects and general research interests) ranked according to priority
 - Objectives and impact of one's proposed research or project(s)
 - Contribution of the proposed research or project(s) to the development of science and technology in Vietnam
4. **U.S UNIVERSITIES.** Before listing the three universities that the applicant would like to attend, please do the following:
 - a. Choose the institution based on its ranking in the applicant's field of study. The university should be listed among the top institutions in the U.S. in that field. The rankings of the National Academies are available at the VEF website.
 - b. Thoroughly research each institution, the relevant department, and the degree program that the applicant wishes to pursue. Information can be acquired via universities' websites.
 - c. Understand the research projects in the particular department and identify a particular professor at that institution with whom one prefers to study, based on the professor's research, which should relate to the interests of the applicant.

If you have any questions regarding the VEF 2007 Fellowship selection process, please e-mail vef2007@vef.gov, or phone 04 936 3670.